



VOL. X, NO. 12

WASHINGTON, D. C., AUGUST 29, 1903.

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The Business League

Holds its Fourth Annual Session in Nashville.

The Largest Attendance of Delegates in the History of the League—Nearly Every State and Territory Represented—Eloquent Speeches in Which Practical Common Sense Abounded—Dr. Washington's Address—Tennessee's Hospitality—Notes of the League.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Special.—The 4th annual session of the National Negro Business Men's League assembled at 11/30 o'clock Wednesday August 21, in the Hall of Representatives at the Capitol. Long before the convention was called to order every available seat on the floor and in the galleries was taken, and the aisles were packed with people who could not find seats. It was estimated that there was 1,5000 persons in the hall, of which about 300 were delegates.

There was loud and prolonged applause when J. C. Napier and Dr. Booker T. Washington entered the hall.

The convention was called to order by Rev. Preston Taylor.

Rev. J. E. Purdy, pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church in behalf of the committee on arrangements, turned the building and the city over to the convention. The chairman thanked the committee for their plans and expense.

Dr. R. F. Bloyd was introduced and handed the gavel over to Mr. Washington, president of the League.

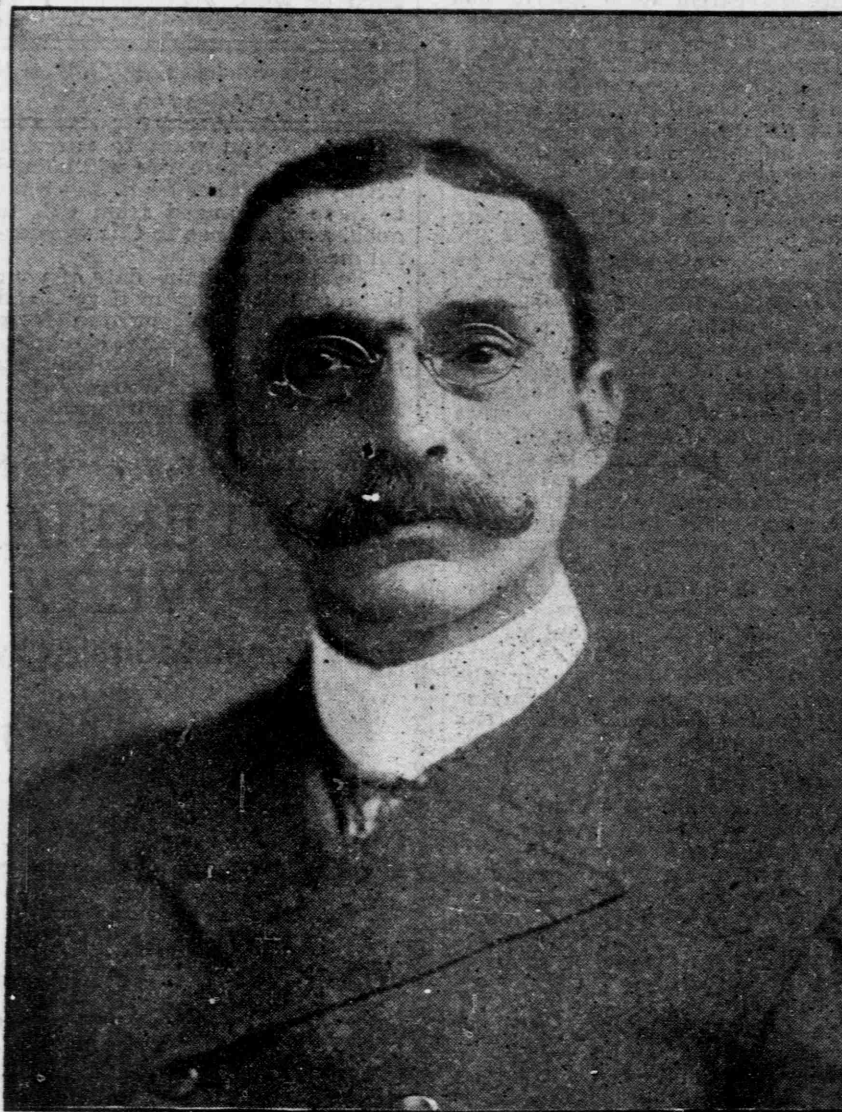
The invocation was offered by Bishop C. H. Phillips, of Nashville.

Mr. A. S. Williams the Democratic nominee for Mayor on behalf of the city of Nashville, and in the absence of Mayor Head, welcomed the delegates. He said that the city welcomed any organization which had as its object the moral, mental and business elevation of persons, whether white or black.

"The time has come in the history of the world," he said "when the business communities are severing itself from all bitter partisanship which has had the tendency to promote only selfish interests. The plowman is as essential as the monarch who sits upon his self-constituted throne of authority. We have forever thrown off the foreign and domestic yoke of oppression. Nashville stand to-day with outstretched arms to every interest that has for its purpose the bettering of mankind, more so than any other city in the country."

He said that the president of the League had not only the opportunity, but the mental endowment to do a great work in behalf of the Negro.

Men of the Hour.



HON. JOSIAH T. SETTLE
Lawyer, Scholar and Leader, Memphis, Tenn.

He was a man of intelligence and a man of moral character. All of the wisdom of Solomon and the opportunity of a king would be worthless where there is a lack of disposition to make the proper use of it for good.

He welcomed the visitors to all the friendship and hospitality that has ever characterized the people of the South and Tennessee and more especially Nashville.

Hon. J. C. Napier read a letter from Mayor James M. Head expressing regret that his business necessitated his being absent from Nashville, thus making it impossible for him to deliver his address. He offered the League warm words of encouragement.

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce Mr. W. C. Collier, president,

said that he was pleased to welcome the members of the League. "I want our people, both white and black, to mingle more together, and to come to know one another better. I am glad that you, many of whom have never been this far South before came here, so that you may have to accept by hearsay the way we treat the Negro, but may know. We will hold up your hands so long as you are in the right line and in the right path."

Mr. Washington said that there was perhaps no other class of people who affect the retail business of the country so actively as the Negro. He said that he therefore was pleased to have one of its representatives present. He

A Bright Barrister.

Colored Lawyers Look out for 70,000 People.

The Career of Hon. J. T. Settle, the Leading Attorney of Memphis Tenn.—His Early Struggles—His Victory Over Difficulties—A Learned Lawyer—A Gifted Orator and Profound Thinker, He Has Been Many Times Honored.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Special.—The legal business of the seventy-five thousand Negroes in Memphis is attended to by twelve lawyers of the race. The wealthiest and most eloquent orator of the entire number is the Hon. Josiah T. Settle. During his visit to Memphis just after his victory in the Spanish-American war Admiral George Dewey was received and entertained by the most prominent and well-to-do members of the race, at the Main street auditorium. In a speech of welcome in which he named the admiral, the Sailor Statesman, Mr. Settle proved himself to be entitled to a place among the famous orators of his country. To say that his address was a masterpiece in point of literary production as well as oratory, would be describing it in a very mild degree.

Mr. Settle was born in East Tennessee, September 30, 1850. He prepared for, entered college and completed his Freshman year at Oberlin College. He was one of the four Negro boys of a class numbering fifty, yet he was chosen as one of the eight orators to represent his class when they entered the college, an honor much desired by all students. After graduating from Howard University Mr. Settle graduated from the law department of Howard University also. He was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, but having decided to make his chosen profession his life's work, and believing he could best serve his people where resided the greatest number, he left the District of Columbia in the spring of 1875 and located in North Mississippi, where he at once engaged in the practice of law.

In 1876 he was a delegate to the National Republican convention and was the only delegate from Mississippi who voted for the nomination of Roscoe Conkling for President, and continued to vote for him as long as his name was before the convention. Mr. Settle was elector for the State at large on the Hayes and Wheeler ticket, and in 1880 he was presidential elector on the Garfield and Arthur ticket. When a resident of Mississippi, there was no man that stood higher in the estimation of all classes than he. He was as popular with one race as he was with the other. Mr. Settle

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